

Sample Newsletter Article

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If you own or are working on a site contaminated with hazardous waste, then you need to know that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has published guidance to help you get it cleaned up with less cost.

The MDNR has adopted a risk-based corrective action process, “Departmental Missouri Risk-Based Corrective Action Technical Guidance.” This process provides for remediation decisions at contaminated sites that brings them into constructive use while protecting human health and the environment in the context of current and future use. The adoption of risk-based decision-making was initiated when the department decided to move away from using drinking water standards as the cleanup criteria for contaminated groundwater when the groundwater was not used as drinking water.

Using a risk-based process, site remediation is based on the human health and environmental risk from exposure to contamination rather than the traditional debate of “how clean is clean.” If determined to be safe based upon exposure routes and receptors, contamination may be left in place with appropriate engineering and/or institutional controls to ensure long-term protection. A risk-based framework can streamline the process of site cleanup and closure, streamline decision-making, and focus finite resources (both private and public) on sites with the highest current or potential risks. By adopting a departmental risk-based process that applies to most sites, the department can provide greater consistency in its decision-making.

In response to legislative directives and widespread stakeholder interest, the department formed the Risk-Based Remediation Rule Workgroup (Workgroup). External stakeholders in this group represented 15 key sectors of Missouri’s citizenry. Before finalizing a rule, the Workgroup decided to first develop a policy approach and technical guidance. The Department of Natural Resources coordinated this effort.

Please contact “name or position” at (telephone number) for how to use this new guidance on your site. The Technical Guidance and related information is located at:
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/hwp/mrbca/mrbca.htm>.